



LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD OF CHURCH BELL RINGERS

Guild Officers

[Master - Mrs Susan Faull](#) : Secretary - Leslie G Townsend : [Treasurer - Ms Nicola Jones](#)

[Peal Secretary - Emma J Southerington](#) : [Librarian - Mrs Judith Williamson](#).

To contact any of the above please consult the Annual Report or visit the Guild website via <http://ldgcb.org.uk>

Newsletter No 6

[Editor - John R Ketteringham](#)

August 2006

Any opinions expressed in this Newsletter are those of the contributor and not necessarily those of the Guild Officers or represent Guild policy. Because the Newsletter is published on the Guild website any email addresses are published in a form which may help to reduce the possibility of 'Spam'. Therefore when using these addresses '-at-' must be replaced with '@'. This Newsletter is published on the first day of May, August, November and February. Contributions are welcome and are published at the editor's discretion. If any amendments are made the contributor will be consulted. Contributions need to be with the Editor four weeks before the date of publication to allow for editing etc before checking by the Guild Master.

Farewell Message from Owen Northwood

After a very protracted house sale the final two weeks went past in a blur and we finally had everything ready for the removal men so that the move to Cumbria went smoothly. My 35 years in Lincolnshire have been most enjoyable and ringing has played no small part in that. I suspect that we might have a need to return at some time in the future when old friendships can be renewed.

My best wishes to everybody.

Owen Northwood

The Guild AGM

The Annual Meeting of the LDG was held in Lincoln on 29 April and was the best attended in recent years. As is traditional the day started with Holy Communion in the Ringers' Chapel at the Cathedral. The Business Meeting took place in St Gile's Church and the Master, Sue Faull, gave a particular welcome to Aidan Hopkins who, although now living in the South has always tried to attend this meeting but missed last year owing to a very serious illness. Barbara Rand and A. R. Heppenstall were elected to Honorary Life Membership of the Guild and Emma Southerington is now Peal Secretary. As a new Dean has not yet been appointed it was agreed that past Guild Master Dennis Frith would fill the post of Guild President until the next AGM. All other officers were re-elected. In her presentation of the Annual Report the Master said how good it was that there was so much activity and enthusiasm throughout the Guild with particular emphasis on the large number of young ringers. It was confirmed that the subscription for adults remains at £10 per annum. Junior members and those in full-time education pay £3. Associate and Non-Resident Life Members pay £5. The peal fee remains at 25p per rope.

The acquisition of the Saxilby Simulator as the focal point of an interactive, mobile display about bellringing was discussed with enthusiasm and it was agreed that this would be a tremendous help in recruiting ringers around the Guild and making the general public aware of what bellringing is all about. Grants are being sought for this initiative.

Sue thanked Trevor Hardcastle for the hard work involved in compiling and editing the Annual Report and also Phil Green for designing an excellent cover and printing once again such a fine quality publication

After lunch a new venture took place – an eight bell Striking Competition at Washingborough. This was judged by Derek Tysoe who announced the results later in the day. It was good that all six Branches of the Guild were able to take part, the test piece was a plain course of Cambridge, and the Southern Branch came first with the Eastern Branch worthy runners up. Whilst waiting for the results three members rang a handbell peal in the church vestry!

General ringing for those not taking part in the Striking Contest took place during the afternoon at Potterhanworth, Branston and on the 'Pots'. Ringing at the Cathedral took place both before and after evensong.

So ended a very full but enjoyable day.

Denis Frith – Guild President

As reported above, at the Guild Annual General Meeting Denis, as the senior former Guild Master, was elected Guild President until the appointment of a new Dean. As well as Guild Master Denis also served the Guild as Secretary. He has been a very active member of the Guild for many years and has only recently retired as Tower Captain at Grantham. At the recent Annual Dinner of the St Wulfram's Society of Change Ringers Denis's service to Grantham tower and ringing in Lincolnshire was recognised by a presentation. It was said that Denis's first visit to a Grantham practice was via scaffolding which at that time encased the tower and spire and through the West window!

Peal Review (January to June 2006) by Emma Southerington

January started the year off in spectacular style with the younger Guild ringers doing particularly well - 13 year old Ed Fiddy and 15 year old Lizzie Stokoe both scored their first peal, Tom Blyth his first surprise major inside, Lilja Helgadottir, Ben Ricketts and Richard Till all rang their first peal of Royal (inside to spliced surprise) with Lilja also ringing her first handbell peal, and Ben ringing his first Maximus. For the over-21s: Sue Faull rang her first spliced surprise royal, Alan Payne his first maximus and Ian Till his first as conductor in hand - fantastic opportunities! Two of the peals this month were 'Cathedral' peals - 3 Spliced Surprise Royal at Peterborough and an all Southern Branch peal of Yorkshire Maximus at Lincoln. The first peal on Grantham's light "Pinchbeck Eight" was rung by a mainly local band.

In contrast, February was a quieter month and saw the Tower Captain, Mark Mumby, conduct his first peal - the last peal on the bells at Morton, prior to their rehangings. The first peal of Lincolnshire Surprise Major was rung in hand for the Guild. The start of March introduced another first pealer: Andrew Lord rang and conducted his first peal - Bob Minor in hand. It was especially pleasing to see him conduct and ring another before the month end! The handbell bands in the Guild increased their repertoire on higher numbers, with both Kent and Oxford Royal being rung, and Kent (Granta var.) Maximus. On tower bells, Helen Scarf increased her methods-per-peal from one to seven - ringing inside to minor, Chris Turner scored his 200th peal as conductor and Terry Maddison celebrated 30 years of peal ringing - with a peal!

In April there were peals rung both in tower (at Greatford and Long Bennington) and on handbells to mark the 80th birthday of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, including a handbell peal by Barton on Humber's Sunday Service ringers and Ian Dawson's first treble bob (on tower bells). There was continued progress both in tower and in hand: on tower bells, Matt Hardy and Chris Woodcock both scored their first Spliced Surprise Royal peals, Michael Belcher rang both his 500th peal of major and finally completed his surprise major alphabet(!) and in hand Andrew Davey and Johnny Stokoe both scored first peals in hand - Johnny's being rung on Guild AGM Day to congratulate Robin Heppenstall on his election as an Honorary Life Member of the Guild - a first peal in hand congratulating a ringer who has done so much to promote and encourage handbell ringing in the Guild is a fitting tribute.

May saw further progress in handbell ringing - Chris Woodcock ringing his first in hand, the first peal of Rutland Major being rung in hand for the Guild and an 'all firsts' peal of Kent Minor rung at Barton, completing the Kent family from minor to maximus in hand for the Guild this year! Another 'first peal' was rung - congratulations to Nicola Jones and the Bassingham band - ringing a local peal for the Queen's Birthday. This peal also included two firsts for nearly 50 years - congratulations also to Stan Underwood and Alan Haines. Peals were rung in the Southern Branch to welcome Alice Payne. More progress in June for Ian Dawson and Lilja Helgadottir with their first 'seven surprise' peals, and Bill Croft and Andrew Lord led their respective bands to success in Oxford Maximus and Minor respectively, the maximus being another first-in-hand for the Guild and the minor a further 'first-for-all' peal. Chris Woodcock had a busy month conducting a local band peal for the Queen's birthday at Potterhanworth, and the 250th anniversary peal at Lincoln St Giles.

An amazing start to the year - peals rung on all numbers of bells, both in tower and in hand, and staggering progress being made by a whole host of ringers. Congratulations again to Ed, Lizzy, Andrew and Nicola on their first peals and particular thanks to those who do so much of the organising, maintenance of the bells, and local good-will making in order to keep them ringable.

Brunel in Lincoln

Isambard Kingdom Brunel came to Lincoln whilst surveying the Fossdyke Canal which runs from the Brayford Pool in Lincoln to join the River Trent at Torksey thus linking the port of Boston via the River Witham to Nottingham and Hull. Whilst in Lincolnshire Brunel stayed at the Black Boy Inn on Castle Hill in Lincoln. The Black Boy is now the Castle Hill Club and in recent years has become the 'local' for the Cathedral ringers.

A very good relationship has developed between the ringers and the management of the Club and earlier this year a reproduction of the well-known Ringer's Jack was made and now forms part of the bar furnishings. After discussion with the management it was decided to erect the Woodside Campanile (sometimes known as the Branston 'Pots') in the bar and on Sunday 9 April a quarter peal of Cambridge Surprise Minor was rung on them by Phil Mason (1); Sandra Rhodes (2); Chris Woodcock (3); Betty Stracey (4); Mick Stracey (5 Conductor) and Les Townsend (6). This quarter was probably one of the most unusual ways in which the 200th Anniversary of Brunel's birth was celebrated by bellringers.

The opportunity was taken to demonstrate and explain bellringing to members of the Club some of whom tried the bells for themselves.

The 'Pots' at the Lincolnshire Show

The Branston 'Pots' were again in action at the Lincolnshire Show and amongst the distinguished visitors who tried them out was Bishop John. He did learn to ring at St John's on the Wall Bristol when he was about 12 years of age. Strangely enough at that time I was working in Bristol and often used to go to St John's on a Wednesday evening. Perhaps I rang with him at that time! I told him about Philip Goodrich who was taught to ring at Corby Glen by Bill Holmes. After Philip was consecrated Bishop of Worcester he became notorious for insisting on having a ring before any service at which he was officiating because, invariably, the service was late starting! When he was taking part in a service at Worcester Cathedral a Verger was instructed to head him off if he attempted to ascend the tower! Perhaps Bishop John will in due course acquire a similar reputation.

From the Editor

I have had a number of expressions of appreciation for the Guild Newsletter from those ringers or former ringers no longer living in the Diocese. These have not all been from those living in this country. If you know of anyone who might like to be put on the mailing list please let me know. I would also be grateful if you would make sure that anyone no longer able to ring through age or ill health has the opportunity to read the newsletter and so keep in touch.

I often think that in some ways the Diary Dates section of this Newsletter is the most important. I certainly wish that there had been so many opportunities in the Guild for ringers to socialise, practise methods and enjoy what is after all a hobby with something in it for everyone.

How lucky we are!

Please do help to make the work of the Guild known to all ringers in the Diocese whether they are members or not by ensuring that this Newsletter is on display in every tower with ringers.

Many thanks and best wishes to you all.

My second month on the other side of the world - Letter from Lilja

Lilja is a young ringer from Willingham by Stow. She is spending 5 months of her gap year in Australia. She is taking part in various voluntary projects and trying to do a little ringing too. A report on her first month in Australia was published in Newsletter No. 5.

My second month in Melbourne.

Just before the start of the Commonwealth Games I took part in an open day at St Paul's cathedral where we held a handbell concert and then showed people around the tower bells and did some demonstration ringing. I rang another quarter peal of Bob major for the opening of the Commonwealth Games which I managed to fit in around my volunteering and spectator duties!! I had a hectic schedule but it was all worth it as I had an awesome time. The games were just brilliant.

Andrew Chin, tower captain at St Paul's kindly took me on a day trip to Ballarat, a couple of hours out into the country. It was here I broke my first rope!! It was then spliced on the spot, with a new rope so that the monthly practice could be resumed. The practice meant a new grab and some more new faces, and was a very enjoyable day out.

My last ring before leaving Melbourne was the 6 at Burnley (5-0-25). They were very interesting sounding (not in a proper scale) and a very awkward ring. I've had a great time in Melbourne and am now looking forward to moving on to new adventures. I am taking part in environmental projects in the interior of Australia for the next six weeks so probably won't get any ringing. I shan't forget the friendship of the Melbourne ringers for a long time.

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Lilja is now back from her travels and I hope when she has had a rest she will be able to write an account of the remainder of her visit for the next Newsletter.

Lincolnshire Rabbits

Lincolnshire's Ringing 'Rabbits' had their annual gathering at Thorpe-on-the-Hill on the May Day Bank Holiday Monday. The idea was to gather together as many less experienced ringers as possible and make up bands with more experienced ringers. Six teams rang in a light-hearted competition with Judith Williamson as judge. I found, much to my surprise, that I had been drawn to ring in the band led by Margaret Parker. This was the first tower bell ringing I had done for around 20 years – I have been called many things in my time but never before have I been called a Rabbit - I'm not that fond of lettuce!

Those not ringing and the non-ringers were kept occupied with a quiz in and around the Church. After an excellent tea in the Village Hall Judith gave her impressions of the ringing by each band in a most constructive manner with no winners or

losers. The results of the quiz were announced and this was followed by a Beetle Drive. A most enjoyable event and grateful thanks are due to the organisers and to the Thorpe ringers and helpers for the tea.

Lincoln Guild Young Ringers' Activity Day.

On Saturday 27th May, young ringers from four of the six Branches of the LDG with a few adult supporters met at Washingborough. Ringing ranged from call changes to Plain Bob Triples. The standard of ringing and the enthusiasm of the youngsters, some of whom have only been ringing a short time was impressive.

Sandwiches were eaten in the village hall at Potterhanworth followed by games on the playing fields. Although the youngsters from the Central Branch were numerically the largest group, their combined body weight was significantly less than "the rest of the Guild" consequently they were well beaten in the tug of war. The boys versus the girls plus adults cricket match was similarly one sided, however great fun was had by all.

Two bands were then dispatched to ring quarter peals. One of Bob Doubles was successful, but the other of Bob Minor came to grief when a number of bells got swapped over. In the meantime there was general ringing for the less experienced young ringers at Potterhanworth and a chance to ring several tunes on a set of bellplates. Three young ringers remained behind to ring a quarter of singles while the rest went to visit Phil and Dot's 'Pots'. After a "tower" tour, the youngsters quickly got to grips with the new handling technique and were soon ringing creditable rounds. Some even double handed before the end of the visit. What the neighbours thought of 24 people standing around in a garage making a lot of noise one will never know.

We then all went off to the local ten pin bowling alley where we had a good meal and occupied four adjacent lanes. Some of the adults demonstrated that they could follow a blue line when ringing but not follow a straight line when bowling. And so ended a great day. In all 19 young ringers took part with 5 helpers.

Nocton, Lincs. 27 May 1320 PB Doubles Laura Bates 1, Jenny Harvey 2, Rachael Woodcock 3, Edward Martin 4, Tom Blyth © 5, Paul Kibblewhite 6 A teenage band.

Potterhanworth, Lincs 27 May 1260 PB Singles Tom Blyth 1, Ben Meyer 2, Chris Woodcock © 3

Lincolnshire's newest ring of bells.

It is quite a rare event for a ring of bells to be installed in a church tower where no such ring has ever existed. The last time this occurred in Lincolnshire was at Martin by Timberland in 1945. The dedication on 23 April 2006 by the Bishop Lincoln of the ring of six bells at St Michael's Hackthorn was, therefore, a particularly important occasion. Five bells have been transferred from Milton, Oxfordshire and a new treble has been cast by Taylor Eayre and Smith. The bells have been hung in a locally constructed galvanised steel frame to the design of Hayward Mills Associates who hung the bells. The tenor weighs 8 cwt 18 lbs.

The dedication service was memorable and it was good that a local band was able to ring the bells for the first time after their dedication. Many people have worked very hard to ensure the success of this project and deserve congratulations on a job very well done.

A full account of this project was published in the *Ringling World* dated 12 June 2006 and can be read here : <http://homepage.ntlworld.com/john.ketteringham/news.htm>

Diary Dates

6 August	Southern Branch	Lincoln Cathedral	General ringing for evensong
12 August	Central Branch	Lincoln High Street Towers and treasure hunt	
14 August	Southern Branch	Peterborough Cathedral	10/12 bell practice night 7.30
19 August	Southern Branch	Peal/Quarter peal day	
20 August	Northern Branch	Lincoln Cathedral	Ringling for evensong
21 August	West Lindsey	Young Ringers Activity Day	
28 August	Northern Branch	Coach/car outing in Sleaford area	
2 September	Eastern Branch	Harrington (3) 5-530; Hemingby (3) 6-645; Horncastle (6) 7-930 pm.	
9 September	Guild Striking Competition – Alford and Willoughby		
9 September	Central Branch	Potterhanworth	Training morning
16 September	West Lindsey Branch	Messingham 2.30 Service 4.15 Tea 5 pm	evening ringling
16 September	Southern Branch	Market Deeping - Handbell workshop, service, meeting, tea, evening ringling.	
30 September	Stow	Joint Surprise Major Practice	7 – 9 pm.
7 October	Northern Branch	Autumn Meeting	2 – 5 p.m.
14 October	Central Branch	Great Hale and Ruskington	
21 October	West Lindsey Branch	Outing to Retford Area	

28 October	Southern Branch	Silk Willoughby	
4 November	Eastern Branch	Coningsby - Learner's Practice	6 m- 9 pm
11 November	Central Branch	Quiz Night	730 pm
18 November	West Lindsey Branch	Burton on Stather	630 – 9 pm.
25 November	Southern Branch	Ancaster and Heydour	Morning practice
25 November	Caistor	Joint Surprise Major Practice	7 – 9 pm.

If you are interested in attending any of the above please check with the Ringing World or the appropriate Branch Secretary :

Eastern Branch : Mrs C. Meyer 01507 462625	Central Branch : Mrs D. Mason 01522 796079
Elloe Deaneries Branch : Roy Norman 01945 700798	Northern Branch : Miss L. Bateman 01472 690460
Southern Branch : Ian Dawson 01476 550968	West Lindsey : Mrs D. Scarf 01724 764526

Surprise Royal Practices

These are held on the second Saturday in each month from 10.30 a.m. to 12 noon. Methods to be practiced are Cambridge, Yorkshire Lincolnshire, London, Littleport Little and Bristol. Spliced Cambridge, Yorkshire and Lincolnshire. Note :- Littleport Little will be a method to help us all to progress to Bristol Royal and further as five leads are Bristol Major. A small donation will be required to cover tower donations. Contact – Phil and Dot Mason. 01522 796079.

12 August – Edenham	14 October – Southwell	11 November - Newark
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Midweek Ringing

1 August	Durham and York Surprise Minor	Dunholme	2.00 p.m.
15 August	Pudsey and Superlative Surprise Major	Stow	2.30 p.m.
29 August	Away Day – Venue to be arranged.		
5 September	Cambridge, Primrose, Ipswich and Norfolk Surprise Minor	Dunholme	2.00 p.m.
19 September	Cambridge, Yorkshire, Lincolnshire Spliced Surprise Major	Stow	2.30. p.m.
3 October	Beverley and Surfleet Surprise Minor	Dunholme	2.00 p.m.
17 October	Bristol and Rutland Spliced Surprise Major	Stow	2.30 p.m.
31 October	Away Day		
7 November	Stamford and Rosendale Surprise Minor	Dunholme	2 p.m.
21 November	Superlative, Lincolnshire and Pudsey Surprise Major	Stow	2.30 p.m.

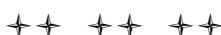
Other Practices

Occasional Surprise Major Practices are arranged between the Northern, Central and West Lindsey Branches. If you are interested in supporting these contact the Branch Secretaries for details but do please remember that they are **Surprise Major** practices, so do not turn up expecting to ring Bob Minor! We need to look after and challenge our more advanced ringers and these busy practices serve that need across a wide area. Dates where known are included in Diary Dates above

The **South Lincolnshire 'Geriatrics'** meet on the third Wednesday of each month, except in December. Ringing is from 2.30 pm until 4pm. except in May and September when the start is at 11am. Lunch is at 12 and this is followed by ringing at a second tower in the afternoon. Programme details for 2006 can be obtained from Canon E. Orland (01778 380724) or Ron. Noon (01775 722671)

On the second Wednesday in each month from 1030 to 1200 a practice is held on the six bells at **Wragby** for 'mature' students as Jim calls them. After lunch the practice continues on the eight simulated bells. This practice consists of the better known Triples and Major Methods. For more information contact Jim Sutherland on 01673 858492

The **Ladies** have their own practice on the first Wednesday of each month starting at 1.30 pm. If you are eligible and would like to attend please contact Margaret Parker on 01522 753412 for details of the venue.



If you are thinking of attending any of these special practices do please consider the aims and objectives as detailed. Time is short and it is usually not possible to deviate from the programme. As well as helping to advance method ringing these are very enjoyable social events. If you are not a regular attender at any of these practices it might be as well to check beforehand to make sure the venue etc hasn't had to be changed.

STOP PRESS

I have been asked by the Guild Master to point out that the cryptic comment in a footnote to a quarter peal at Potterhanworth on 20 July refers to the fact that my shorts fell down after 300 changes but we did complete the quarter. Sorry Emma, I didn't have my camera with me this time! P.S. I rang another quarter two days after that at

Potterhanworth – this time at Wragby to the accompaniment of thunder and lightening during which the lights failed several times! Margaret Parker commented that its never boring ringing with me!